

Meeting Minutes

NCEC Neighborhoods 2020 Committee

August 22, 2016

Crown Roller Mill, 105 5th Avenue South

Members Present: Denis Houle, Marcea Mariani, Jeffrey Strand, Pat Vogel, Kenya Weathers, Marcus Mill and David Boyd (by telephone)

Also Present: NCR Staff Don Joseph, David Rubedor and Howard Blin

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM. This being the first meeting of the reformed committee members introduced themselves.

1. Selection of Co-Chairs.

Members voted to select two co-chairs for the Committee. Marcus Mills and Jeffrey Strand were selected.

2. Agenda

The agenda was approved

3. Previous Work of the Committee

The charge for the committee and the previous recommendations the group presented to the NCEC were discussed.

The peer table effort conducted by the committee in 2015-2016 was discussed, the included the organization of the tables, who participated, how neighborhoods were notified, etc.

It was suggested that any future outreach to neighborhoods must include neighborhood board members in addition to the staff that were primarily involved in the previous committee.

It was noted that the earlier committee included non-NCEC members. Whether this should be continued in the current committee was discussed. If non-NCEC members were included, the means of selecting those members was discussed.

Motion by Strand, seconded by Houle that all meetings of the committee should be totally transparent, operated under Roberts Rules of Order, properly noticed, regularly scheduled, with agendas and meeting minutes available to the public and the work of the committee should be compliant with the vision and mission of the NCEC and the Principles of Community Engagement.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Future Work of the Committee

Rubedor presented a proposed schedule for the committee and a general charge based on the following assumptions:

- The City will continue to fund neighborhood organizations in some fashion.
- The most likely source of funding will be from the City's general fund. This will place neighborhood funding in a competitive environment with other City needs and priorities.
- The Committee should look broadly at neighborhood organizations, including: the value to the city of neighborhoods, the optimal number of neighborhood organizations, the purpose and the return of investment for the City's funding.

Rubedor described a proposed broad engagement process over the next 18 months leading to a set of recommendations in January 2018. He stated that other cities such as St. Paul, Seattle and Portland are also wrestling with how to fund neighborhoods. He also discussed the City Council direction that options are presented for merging the NCEC and NRP Policy Boards.

Committee members had the following comments:

- The case for neighborhoods must be made to the City Council and others based on evidence of the value of neighborhood organizations.
- Competing for general fund dollars is problematic for volunteer resident organizations.
- The schedule calling for recommendations in early 2018 would put funding decisions in the hands of potentially a new council and mayor who may not agree with the direction of the previous council and mayor. Consider delivering recommendations earlier so that they can inform the 2017 City Elections cycle.
- It was requested that a report be provided on how other cities provide neighborhood funding. This would provide possible examples of options Minneapolis could consider.
- It should be remembered that neighborhoods are separate from the City. Neighborhoods need to be independent and prepared to seek other sources of funding should City funding be eliminated.
- This is similar to the situation in 2009 when neighborhoods were also uncertain of future funding. This uncertainty should be avoided since it diminishes interest in participating in neighborhood organizations.
- In exploring funding options, it should be considered broadly including options such as state funding, including funding in the City Charter, using a fee based system in which neighborhoods would charge for the services they provide.

- Funding should be sought to incorporate the Art of Hosting technique into the process.

5. Committee Organization

The meeting locations were discussed with agreement that the meetings should be moved to different locations in the city.

It was agreed that the question of placing non-NCEC members on the Committee would be deferred until the next meeting. Staff was asked to develop options for selecting non-NCEC members.

It was agreed that the staff would poll members to determine the best date for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Submitted by Howard Blin